

# Virginia Justice Again Commended by American Press

**End of the Beattie Case.**  
Four months and six days after he murdered his young wife on Middlethian Turnpike Henry Beattie was put to death yesterday by process of the law. His crime was exceptionally brutal and revolting, and there has been little or no doubt of his guilt from the first. His trial was fair and conducted with the gravity and dignity so often lacking in trials for murder in the North. The rustic jury retired prayerfully, and after short deliberation, rendered the verdict of guilty. The Supreme Court of Virginia dismissed the appeal without waste of words, and Governor Mann refused to mitigate the punishment provided by the law. In the fortnight before the execution of the sentence a few sentimental persons urged clemency on account of the youth of the prisoner, and some doubt was expressed as to his guilt, as he proclaimed his innocence almost to the last, and the evidence against him was circumstantial. But the doubt was removed by his confession, witnessed by two ministers of the Gospel, at the last moment.

Capital punishment for murder still prevails in most of the States of the Union and in most of the countries of the civilized world. That there is an ever-growing sentiment against it is not to be doubted, but the arguments against it thus far have not been convincing. While the law stands it should be rigidly enforced. There can be no more opinions on that point. The Beattie case in Virginia has been a noteworthy illustration of the efficiency of the jury system and the prompt administration of criminal law. The value of circumstantial evidence has been once more manifested. As for the be-lated confession, some persons will not hesitate to say that, having protected his innocence to the last moment, Beattie might better have withheld it and left for the honor of his family, the benefit of a doubt. But that is not the spiritual point of view, and the confession was undoubtedly made under clerical influence. In the belief of the present writer the condemned man declared that he believed he was at peace with God and was soon to pass into His Presence. A great majority of his family's neighbors and friends share his belief, and the bearers of his name must live down the additional name he felt compelled to place upon them. Probably it is slight. The community in which he dwelt and the whole country believed that he was guilty.—New York Times.

**Justice in Virginia and in New York.**  
The citizens of Virginia can feel pride in the admirable conduct of the case against Henry Beattie. The murder was committed on July 18 last, the trial of Beattie began on August 24, and the verdict of guilty was found on September 5, less than

two months from the date of the crime. The sentence was executed approximately four months after the crime. This swift and sure administration of justice was accomplished with every regard to the guilty man's rights, and no proper avenue of defense and appeal was denied him. It should be added that from the backwoods jury which brought in the verdict up to Governor Mann, justice was administered with a dignity and a decorum which commanded the respect of the entire country.

It is not pleasant for citizens of our own State to contrast the foregoing with certain aspects of criminal trials at home. Some success has been achieved in hastening the trial of accused men; but the delay upon appeal to the State. We have in mind the case of Albert Walter Wolter, an extreme case. This man was convicted on April 22, 1910, of having atrociously murdered Ruth Wheeler, the fifteen-year-old stenographer whom he committed to his rooms by a fake advertisement. The murder was committed on March 25, less than a month before, and the arrest and trial were, therefore, accomplished with an expedition that reflected great credit on the District attorney's office. Since in statu quo. An appeal was taken to the Court of Appeals, and several delays have been granted by the court. The appeal has not yet been argued, notwithstanding the lapse of seven months from the date of conviction. It is worth remarking that in the Beattie case less than two months and a half were required for all the processes of judicial appeal and of application for executive clemency. We are aware that every case cannot be prosecuted so expeditiously. But the delay in the Wolter case comes measurably near making the law a travesty and bringing our courts and the sovereign authority of the State into public contempt.—New York Evening Sun.

**Beattie's Repentance.**  
In so far as the demands of human justice are concerned, their requirements were met in the case of Henry Beattie, Jr., at the moment when his life paid the penalty for the crime he committed. It is impossible for man to pursue him further, even if there were the desire. And to admit that there could be desire would be to invest the human heart with qualities of implacable vengeance that find no place in the terms of life as understood to-day.

Yet some would carry the argument of the wrongdoer's eleventh-hour confession and repentance to a conclusion that tends to rob them not only of all merit, but of all hope. They would insist, and not without a show of reason, that the whole thing is no

more than an attempt to fool the Almighty—that if there be a Supreme Being who knows the secrets and intents of the heart, He must know that young Beattie withstood the overtures of divine mercy so long as the faintest chance for temporal salvation remained; and that not until the last hope faded did he acknowledge his crime, thereby seeking to bamboozle Omnipotence after he had failed in his contest with the finite intelligence of man.

About the only answer that can be made to this line of logic is that its roots are grounded in self-righteousness, rather than in righteousness. Man's judgment belongs to the here and not to the hereafter. Moreover, God's ways are not man's ways. If He chooses to accept a sincere repentance, and to grant mercy at the final moment, who shall deny the righteousness thereof? That which was promised to the thief on the cross must remain good to-day, or else the plan of redemption is a failure, the intervention of God in man's behalf ineffectual, and the faith of millions based on fable.

There need be no quarrel on the subject. No principle of justice is outraged. Clearly enough, for all to recognize has retribution followed the infraction of the moral law in Beattie's history. As he sowed, he reaped. The Rake's Progress has been exemplified in his life and its tragic denouement, in lines less bold, but no less convincing, than drawn by Hogarth. The offender and the victim side by side. There remains only that the lesson, in all its gravity, shall be taken to heart by the youth of the country. The question of judgment may well be left with the One who can blend righteousness and mercy without a flaw.—Washington Post.

**Credit to the State.**  
Beattie was convicted on circumstantial evidence. Not until four hours after his death was his guilt known beyond the shadow of a reasonable doubt. The responsibility put on the Governor was heavy. He met it as have two of Virginia's other Governors in the past twenty-five years—Fitzhugh Lee in the case of Cluverius, Montague in the case of McCue. In so doing, he gave to Virginia and the country at large proof of an ideal of duty, which, in the light of the fact that but one and nine-tenths per cent. of the murderers in the United States are executed, cannot be called commonplace.—Louisville Times.

**Capital Punishment.**  
There are those who decry capital punishment. To them the thought that the State should take the life of one who has himself wantonly taken the life of another, is unbearably abhorrent. It appeals to them as a cruel act of vengeance and likely therefore

to be in a degree demoralizing upon the community which practices it. As a matter of fact, there is no tinge of vengeance in capital punishment when the act is done by State authority. The spirit of vengeance comes to play a part only when the mob seeks its hands at lynching. Then it is undoubtedly a demoralizing effect, exercised upon the community which holds the rude work. Under the orderly procedure of justice the criminal is deprived of life for the chief reason that the example thus given may have a deterrent effect upon others like himself by nature.—Worcester (Mass.) Gazette.

**A Sign of Relief.**  
Many persons not even remotely connected with the administration of Virginia's justice have breathed sighs of relief upon reading the confession of Henry Beattie. Beattie, Jr., which removes the last shred of doubt that the verdict carried out yesterday was in accordance with the fact.

Few verdicts involving capital punishment and depending entirely upon circumstantial evidence have been more clearly justified or more generally approved, in recent criminal history, than that which was executed in Richmond yesterday.

Yet the fact remains that no direct evidence that the young husband had really done the murder had been adduced until yesterday. A certain section of the country felt a deep interest in the question whether the condemned man would confess his guilt or go to his death leaving the element of doubt still unresolved. Circumstantial evidence always one thing, which the confession not been made there would have been many who would sincerely believe to-day that a terrible legal error had been made. The confession is one more proof of the reliability of careful deduction from related facts not directly convincing in themselves severally.

The responsibility that is a Governor's was once more illustrated in this case, and Governor Mann's discretion in the case is rendered more notable by the acknowledgment of guilt made almost at the eleventh hour. That this case in its entirety will long influence the administration of justice in murder trials in this country is not too much to expect.—Baltimore Star.

**Where Other Steps.**  
Let those who give the terrible fate of young Beattie, in Virginia, a second thought remember one thing which did not appear in his confession, or in the plea of his heartbroken father for sympathy and forgiveness.

Men like young Beattie kill their wives as truly as he did without committing murder. He was punished, but his greater crime goes unpunished everywhere every day. Sentimentality over the offense that brought him to a felon's death is of questionable value even when it comes to the heart and soul and pride of his wife. How many scoundrels are there afoot to-day, as guilty as he, who have stopped short only of murder?—St. Louis Republic.

**Wheels of Justice.**  
That the wheels of justice do not always grind ineffectively, and that after the inexorable reckoning the wages of sin are sometimes paid with extraordinary promptness, is illustrated in the execution of Henry Beattie for the murder of his wife. It was on July 18 that the event occurred which, in the sequel, shocked civilized society on both sides of the Atlantic. Three days later the young husband, who had so plausibly explained the circumstances, was placed under arrest. On August 14 he was indicted by the grand jury. A week afterward the trial began in Chesterfield County Courthouse. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, the death sentence lasting less than an hour, and Judge Watson pronounced the death sentence. On November 13 the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals refused a writ of error. The Governor, on November 15, declined to grant a stay of execution, and on November 24 the penalty was finally inflicted, in the presence of twelve witnesses. A confession, written the day before the murderer met his fate, acknowledges the guilt and resolves the last doubt as to the identity of the man who took the life of Louise Owen Beattie on the Middlethian Pike in the lonely darkness of the July night.

Beattie had everything to live for. He was young and of prepossessing appearance; his social connections were with persons of good standing in the community; he might easily have won and kept the good opinion of neighbors and business associates, amassed a competency and lived to an old age "serene and bright," an honored citizen. Instead, he chose to dissipate his final happiness, in a life of hardened profligacy, eventuating in his own ruin and in the overwhelming sorrow of his family, who to the end maintained the theory of his innocence. The honesty, the ethics of an austere Puritan morality, the code of sobriety and decency in the conduct of life, are sometimes mocked and flouted by the sort of men who were the boon companions of Beattie. Even they must be soberly impressed by the fate that overtook one who got at a night the commandment of God and the law of man, and foolishly imagined that he would evade the penalty of his misdoing.

The courage and firmness of Governor Mann in standing out against the floodtide of sentimentalism that would have taken the life of Beattie, and his attitude of the Governor is the silver lining of the cloud of tragedy.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

**The Dark Side of Life in the News.**  
It is a commonplace for would-be reformers to protest against the giving of so large an amount of newspaper space to such matters as the Beattie case. Those who make the protests complacently assume, and expect everybody to admit, that they are standing for a specially high kind of ethics. But are they doing so?

Would it be a better world if great crimes were all dealt with in secret and punished in the dark? The spectacle of a young man, judged guilty of an atrocious murder, and drawing to be in a degree demoralizing upon the community which practices it.

A large company is being organized here to do an apple orchard business upon a large scale. About 2,000 acres of choice orchard lands have already been secured, and they will be put in order for planting next spring and fall. The enterprise is to be run entirely upon a commercial scale, and no bonds will be issued.

An apple expert from Nelson county was employed to visit here and express his opinion of the scheme. After a close examination of soil, apple trees now growing, and facilities for handling the fruit, he went away enthusiastic over the proposition of raising apples upon a large scale in Buckingham county.

The McKenna estate, at New Canton, which was sold at auction about a month ago, was ordered by Judge Hundley at the last term of court to be resold as a result of an upset bid made by a party of capitalists. The estate is a valuable one, situated in and around the village of New Canton, on the James River. There is not only a farm, but a dwelling, store, mill, and large warehouse and railroad property included in the estate. The estate was owned by the late John T.

a proud family by unbreakable cords to share his disgrace and suffer something of his doom, is a tragedy more poignant and impressive than anything that can be seen upon the stage. Ought it to pass unseen? Ought not the people to bear the consciousness of the moral gain and the moral strain of the execution of their own laws?

If capital punishment is just and right, should not the people who inflict it face the fact of it, and the evil, good of it? If it is wrong, should not even the most sensitive share the pain?

The misery and the baseness of the world are a part of the world. It is the greatness of the modern age, and the moral dignity of the press that all men are permitted or compelled to feel that nothing human is foreign to them, that every man's life is related to every other man's life, and that no one can be happy or secure without subjugating his mind to the currents of common sympathy and helping others to be happy and secure.—New York American.

**A Degenerate's End.**  
That Beattie, the Virginia wife-slayer, confessed his crime before his execution probably rendered some doubt from the minds of many who have followed his case. Though his guilt was clearly proved at his trial, so that jury and judge and the Governor of the State who had the evidence before him, could enter into no doubt of his guilt, his crime was so atrocious, so natural and revolting that it was difficult to believe it was possible.

A young husband of good family, brought up and well thought of by his people, takes his wife for an evening ride in an automobile, and soon after returns with her murdered body and a slimy story of a hold-up. To add to the wickedness of his act, his infant child was left motherless. His infatuation for an inferior and unworthy woman, and while he has confessed he has shown no regret. He clearly was an abnormal man, with no moral sense—a degenerate, incapable of good. His most fitting place was the electric chair, in which his opportunities for further crime were ended yesterday.

The prompt arrest, trial, conviction and execution of the man is most creditable to the Virginia practice. There was no hurry and no haste. There was no resort to technicalities to protract the proceedings, and when an application for pardon was made it was duly considered and refused by Governor Mann in dignified and impressive language. The unusual homicide attracted the attention and interest of the whole country, and the expedition and rational conduct of the case has won wide approval.—Philadelphia Press.

**Good Moral Effect.**  
Beattie's confession that he murdered his wife was not needed as final proof of his guilt. That had been established to the satisfaction of all unprejudiced persons, and the prisoner's verification of the verdict was superfluous.

His confession will have the good moral effect of quieting any scruples that may have existed as to the execution of a murderer convicted on purely circumstantial evidence and of thereby quashing the case of the sentimentalists who sought on that ground to secure commutation of sentence. No one can say that Beattie's wife. It was possible that some one else had committed the crime, but in the highest degree improbable in the

face of the proof of motive and in view of the strong chain of incriminating circumstances drawn about the defendant by the prosecution. Yet the remote contingency of error sufficed to inspire an extraordinary appeal for what would have been a mistaken act of executive clemency. The wisdom of Governor Mann's resistance of the pressure brought to bear on him to interfere with the hearing of the courts is now confirmed.

Beattie's confession adds the finishing act of completion to a case notable equally for the atrocity of the crime and the swift and sure judicial methods by which the criminal was brought to justice. The trial has vindicated circumstantial evidence in every criminal trial men are executed from service as jurors because they declare they will not convict on any but direct evidence. And when convictions are had in cases that attract wide public attention, popular clamor often denounces the verdict because it was based on circumstantial evidence.

Yet in Virginia yesterday a young man, convicted of murder on purely circumstantial evidence, made a confession of guilt before going to his execution. By confessing Henry Beattie, Jr., did a real public service, for his confession must strengthen confidence in circumstantial evidence. As the lawyers tell us, "Men may lie, but circumstances never."—New York Herald.

**Justice Justified.**  
Henry Beattie did what he could to mitigate his terrible crime by confession. Doubtless to make a clean breast of it eased him as it has eased many another offender, even when confession meant closing the last door upon escape, as it did not in his case. The confession served a social purpose. It showed the public that Beattie, who has little enough to his credit. It gives assurance that justice did not miscarry in this case, and to that extent it strengthens the administration of the law. There is a popular theory that circumstantial evidence is a dubious basis for conviction, and there is no adequate sense of the logical force when it is plentiful and significant. Moreover, in America we have a tendency to sentimentalize over persons charged with offenses and to be weakly reluctant to see them declared guilty and punished. There are defects of our virtues, our kindly optimism gone wrong.

But Beattie was guilty as charged in the indictment and as proved in a fair trial beyond a reasonable doubt in the judgment of his peers. It is much to have this certitude.—Chicago Tribune.

**Beattie's Confession.**  
Henry Beattie atoned in some measure for the brutality of his crime by confessing his guilt before paying the extreme penalty of the law.

If he had been silent in silence there would be many who would still doubt whether his guilt had been

fully proven. The evidence upon which he was convicted was circumstantial, and even after the jury rendered its verdict there were some events which added elements of doubt. Now, however, there will be in the public mind a sense of satisfaction that justice has had its due.

When Beattie was convicted, the Washington Herald expressed its approval of the decision, confident that it was in accordance with the facts. Beattie's own words confirm this judgment. Whatever else may be said about him, now that he has gone to a dishonored grave, he did not pass into the unknown with a lie upon his lips.—Washington Herald.

**Confession No Surprise.**  
The confession of Beattie, the Virginia wife-murderer, causes no surprise. The case made against him was so strong that few persons in court or outside doubted his guilt. The value of the confession is that it confirms the justice of a verdict and removes the last doubt of the last doubter.

There is frequent reference to crimes disgracing a State, but the failure of the authorities in the State to punish the criminal. The criminal himself makes the case fairly, and convicting society, but when there is a failure to convict upon plain evidence, society is ill regulated, and that is the disgrace to the State.

Virginia has a growing reputation as a State which avoids disgrace by forcing the case fairly, and convicting the criminal fearlessly.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**The Wages of Sin.**  
"The wages of sin is death." This has been a true saying for a long time, but it did not impress Henry Beattie, the Virginia wife-murderer, until a few days ago. And today thousands of people who were interested in the trial of this murderer, now that the judgment of the jury has been carried out, are for the time being, no doubt, impressed anew with the inevitable verity of this scripture. Death in this instance was swift and speedy. It may be that the consequences of sin are not always immediately visible; but they are none the less certain. They mean the disintegration of character, unspeakable cruelty to others who are innocent, and the loss of all of a man's life that is worth while. The execution of Beattie does not bring back to life the young woman that he so cruelly destroyed. The object of justice is not alone the punishment of the guilty, but it is designed to be both reformatory and preventive. The country, therefore, gains from this grisly horror an object lesson that may be of service.

There was nothing else but death for Beattie. Better what happened to-day than what must have happened had the Governor interfered and granted him pardon. Governor Mann's course in this case can be commended. Once it was reported that he offered a short reprieve in exchange for a confession, but if so there were no results and his later repeated statements were that there would be no interference on his part with the execution of the sentence. The majesty of the law has been vindicated and there will be few to deny that a just verdict has been carried out. Will the young men of America think that Beattie's idle and "sporting" career preaches a sermon?—Indianapolis News.

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Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

### ACCIDENTS DURING HUNTING SEASON

Two Men Shot, but Not Seriously Wounded—McKenna Estate to Be Resold.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Arvonla, Va., November 26.—Since November, when the shooting season opened, there has been the usual amount of bird and turkey hunting in Buckingham county. Game, owing to the hot and dry summer, can be found in large quantities throughout the county. Rabbits, too, are everywhere in abundance. Deer, which, eight or ten years ago were everywhere, have almost disappeared, their tracks being found only very rarely. Like the ruffed grouse, called the "pheasant" here, the squirrel and the fox, the deer will soon be a thing of the past, unless stringent laws are passed forbidding deer hunting for a period of from five to ten years.

Two mishaps have recently occurred in this immediate vicinity from careless hunters shooting indiscriminately. Two men having been shot quite seriously about the face and shoulder by hunters who took them for turkeys in both instances. William Yancey was in the woods hunting at sawlogs, near Arvonla, when John Martin approached through the woods and took his hat for a gobbler. He was upon the point of firing when he received two shots of large caliber in the back of his neck. Dr. Glover was hastily sent for, and the patient was relieved of his sufferings. He is now doing well. Near Bremo, a Mr. Shipp was shot in the head by John McKenna, and physicians were immediately summoned. Little damage was done, and the patient quickly recovered.

A large company is being organized here to do an apple orchard business upon a large scale. About 2,000 acres of choice orchard lands have already been secured, and they will be put in order for planting next spring and fall. The enterprise is to be run entirely upon a commercial scale, and no bonds will be issued.

An apple expert from Nelson county was employed to visit here and express his opinion of the scheme. After a close examination of soil, apple trees now growing, and facilities for handling the fruit, he went away enthusiastic over the proposition of raising apples upon a large scale in Buckingham county.

### GAEKWAR OF BARODA HURT

His Royal Highness Leaps From a Moving Street Car.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Cambridge, Mass., November 26.—His Royal Highness, the Gaeckwar of Baroda, heir apparent to the throne of Baroda, India, a sophomore at Harvard, was seriously injured in jumping off a moving car near Harvard Square yesterday afternoon.

He was picked up unconscious and taken in a passing automobile to a local hospital, where it was stated that he was suffering from concussion of the brain. He also received a nasty gash on the nose.

The Gaeckwar is one of the richest students at Harvard and is said to have a yearly income of \$3,000,000. He lives in Duister Hall, one of the "Gold Coast" dormitories. His father holds away over 2,000,000 subjects, and it is said India owes him for more progressive ideas than any other living man.

**Possession Ancient Land Grant.**  
Allavista, Va., November 26.—H. B. Shawen, of this place, possesses a land grant given by "Light Horse" Harry Lee, while Governor of Virginia, to Israel Jennings, of Loudoun county, in exchange for a treasury warrant.

The document is written and sealed in most beautiful legible script, on real sheepskin parchment. The date of the document is October 12, 1790.

### SPORTSMEN HUNT GAME IN HIGHLAND

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Montezy, Va., November 26.—The open season for small game is on, and local sportsmen have been joined in the hunt by several visitors from other counties. Turkeys, pheasants, partridges and rabbits are to be found in greater abundance than usual, and it is this class of game that affords most sport in the mountains. In spite of the protection of deer—only one day being given to hunt them—they are very scarce in the Alleghenies, none having been seen in this county for a long time, and in few localities, both in the eastern and western parts of the Highland, a few bears have been seen, and in the Shenandoah, along the Augusta line, several have been killed within the past fortnight.

The Staunton-Montezy mail line, for twenty years in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Cross, of West Augusta, has been sublet to John Porter, a Highlander by birth, but during recent years proprietor of a hotel at Basic City. This is one of the longest and most important stage routes in Virginia, and in the absence of railroad facilities, the mountain counties which it serves and through which it passes are largely affected by the measure of efficiency.

A revival service has been in progress at the Montezy Methodist Church since the 8th instant, the pastor, Rev. L. L. Lowance, being assisted during the first week by Dr. B. W. Bond, presiding elder of the district. The effort has resulted thus far in a half dozen conversions.

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